Five Year Plan. My Government propose to open more N. E. S. Blocks next year as part of the Second Five Year Plan. The object is eventually to cover the entire State with N. E. S. Blocks which, judged by the results so far achieved, will lead the way to more intensive development of the State in agriculture, industry and social services.

Industries.

My Government have fully appreciated the necessity for all-round development of industries, as one of the means for tackling the problem of unemployment and increasing the national income. Steps have been taken for the consolidation and organisation of Government owned commercial concerns and a large number of small scale industries, cottage industries and handicrafts in the State. For the achievement of greater efficiency in the working of industrial concerns owned and managed by Government, a Board of Management with powers of the Board of Directors of a Joint Stock Company has been constituted. With a view to accelerate the progress of the development of Khadi and Village Industries, my Government propose to vest statutory powers with the State Khadi and Village Industries Board. Steps are also being taken to give liberal grants for those engaged in a number of small-scale and cottage industries. Loans and grants to Co-operative Societies of hand-loom weavers will be given during the next financial year on an increased scale in view of the success achieved in this field during the current year.

In the matter of trade and commerce, my Government are of the view that the constitution of a State Trading Corporation for carrying on export trade in a few major dollar earning commodities will be in the best interests of the State and will take active steps for this purpose in co-operation with the Government of India. At the instance of the Government of India, an enquiry regarding Cashewnut Industry is being conducted. A Scheme to step up production of cashewnuts in the State with a view to reduce dependence on foreign raw materials will be carried out during the next Plan period.

Irrigation and Flood Control Projects.

The major irrigation projects to be taken up anew under the Second Five Year Plan during 1956-57, are the second stages of Chalakudi and Neyyar Schemes, Cheerakuzhi and Bhoothathankettu Projects. A good number of

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